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DSP Music Theory and Education

SUMMARY

The application of music software in music education

The subject of my dissertation deals with the application of music software and virtual musical instruments in music education. Music software, especially digital audio workstations and virtual instruments, is designed mainly to compose and record music, not to teach. But there are a lot of ways of applying music software in education. Working with computers and music software is very attractive and illustrative for students due to simple graphic interface and high-quality sounds. It might be very useful for students as it helps them create the exact idea of some topics from the music area.

The first part of my dissertation describes historical evolution of personal computers, music software and also evolution of music hardware such as sound cards, MIDI interfaces, keyboards and others. Elementary sound syntheses are also described.

The second part briefly summarizes available researches and dissertations dealing with music software applications in music education. Historical overview of these researches and dissertations is made.

The third part is dedicated to comparison of different types of music software, its possibilities, positives and negatives. In this part there are compared these music applications specifically: Ableton Live, Steinberg Cubase, Steinberg Sequel, Apple Logic and Apple Garageband.

Next, the fourth part is focused on Ableton Live, which has been chosen for the research work in this thesis.

The fifth part consists of my research work conducted on these topics:

- the research of study skills of university students, future teachers of music education
 - their ability of working with music software
 - the level of their knowledge
 - their opinion about computers and music software
- the application of music software in teaching at primary and secondary schools
 - students' response
 - is teaching using the music software attractive to students
 - are computers and music software helpful for teachers

The main aim of my dissertation is to demonstrate that suitable application of music software in teaching can improve students' knowledge and also have other positive results. Music software together with computers and other devices are only one of various things which may be used in teaching.